

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 167

By Watson

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Head Coach Chris Bono, Assistant Coach Israel Silva, and the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga wrestling team upon winning the 2007 Southern Conference Wrestling Tournament.

WHEREAS, this General Assembly is pleased to specially honor and commend those successful sports teams that, through their magnificent exploits, bring honor to Tennessee and serve as exceptional ambassadors of this State; and

WHEREAS, one such estimable sports team is the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga (UTC) wrestling team, the "Mocs," which achieved an extraordinary level of success in the 2006-2007 season by winning its twenty-second Southern Conference Championship in thirty-one years and its third straight league title; and

WHEREAS, one of the most demanding sports, wrestling is also one of the oldest sporting competitions, tracing its roots to the ancient Greeks and the earliest Olympic games; and

WHEREAS, led by Head Coach Chris Bono and Assistant Coach Israel Silva, the UTC Mocs beat third-ranked Missouri, fourteenth-ranked Ohio State, and nineteenth-ranked Oregon State on their road to championship victory; they won the Southern Conference tournament 117.5 to 75 against runner-up University of North Carolina at Greensboro; and

WHEREAS, the Mocs compiled an impressive season record of sixteen wins and only one loss, and they achieved a ranking of fourteenth nationally, the highest in school Division I history; and

WHEREAS, a team with uncommon dedication and motivation, this year's UTC Mocs are Javier Maldonado, Matt Keller, Michael Keefe, Aaron Martion, Jake Yost, T.J. Sayers, Lloyd Rogers, Josh Edmondson, and Matt Koz; and

WHEREAS, Matt Keller won his second 133-pound Southern Conference title and the Most Outstanding Wrestler Award; other teammates performed notably as well, including Jake Yost, who had the only pin of the Championship finals and claimed his second conference title, and Michael Keefe, who became a four-time NCAA qualifier; and

WHEREAS, Head Coach Bono, who is remarkably in only his first season coaching UTC and who was voted Southern Conference Coach of the Year, laid the groundwork for this year's championship season by sharing with these young men his substantial knowledge of wrestling, his many years of coaching and athletic experience, and his passion both for the sport of wrestling and for excellence in every endeavor; and

WHEREAS, the wrestlers of UTC epitomize all that is good in today's student-athlete, as they have achieved a premier level of success in competition while showing the highest degree of character both on and off the wrestling mat; and

WHEREAS, the perseverance, determination, work ethic, and talent of this group of young men not only made possible a championship wrestling season, but also surely bode well for their success in every future enterprise; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly finds it appropriate to acknowledge and applaud the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga wrestling team for winning the 2007 Southern Conference Wrestling Tournament and for serving as examples of the exceptional quality of the athletes of Tennessee; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATOR OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor and congratulate Head Coach Chris Bono, Assistant Coach Israel Silva, and the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga wrestling team upon winning the 2007 Southern Conference Wrestling Tournament, commend them upon a successful wrestling season, and wish them every success in all future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.